

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9582

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 06546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GE, WB, US, UK, FR, UR, NATO

SUBJECT: VE DAY CELEBRATION--BRITISH AND FRENCH POLICY
GUIDELINES

REFS: (A) BONN 06410; (B) BERLIN 5565; (C) BONN 6195;
(D) BONN 5868; (C) BONN 05440; (F) BONN 05034

SUMMARY: FRENCH AND UK BONN GROUP REPS HAVE INFORMED US
OF INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS TO
ALL FRENCH AND BRITISH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS
CONCERNING OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AT VE DAY 30TH
ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES. BOTH FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE
MODIFIED PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FACT
THAT FRG IS RECONSIDERING ITS NO-PARTICIPATION POLICY.
BOTH STRESS NEED FOR CONTINUED TRIPARTITE CONSULTATION.
FRG GUIDELINES ARE TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET APRIL
23. END SUMMARY.

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FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS

1. AT APRIL 21 TRIPARTITE MEETING, FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) REPORTED THAT PARIS HAS NOW ISSUED VE DAY CELEBRATION INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL FRENCH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS, BASICALLY ALONG LINES OF REFTELS E AND F, WITH MAJOR EXCEPTION THAT POSITION ON POSSIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS ON GERMAN SOIL HAS NOW BEEN MODIFIED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INDICATIONS THAT FRG IS RECONSIDERING ITS POLICY ON ITS OWN POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION.

2. REGARDING VE DAY IN FRANCE, FRENCH WILL "IN PRINCIPLE" STICK WITH THEIR INTENTION TO INVITE ONLY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF WARTIME ALLIES (1945 SIGNATORIES OF UN CHARTER) TO NORMAL MAY 8 EVENTS. "IN PRINCIPLE" QUALIFICATION IMPLIES UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW TO TREAT GDR AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE WHO WAS WARTIME RESISTANCE FIGHTER THERE. ACCORDING TO BOISSIEU, NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE, BUT FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WILL NOT ISSUE ANY INVITATION TO GDR AMBASSADOR GIVEN FURTHER COMPLICATING FACT THAT FRG AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED THAT HE BE ACCORDED EQUAL TREATMENT WITH HIS EAST GERMAN COLLEAGUE. BOISSIEU INDICATED THAT FRENCH PLAN NO JOINT (HELD TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY) VE DAY MANIFESTATIONS IN FRANCE OF AN OFFICIAL CHARACTER, AS DIFFERENTIATED FROM TRADITIONAL JOINT VETERANS' GET-TOGETHERS (REFTEL E). FRENCH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO INVITE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO FRANCE. ONLY FRENCH OFFICIALS WILL LAY WREATHS, AND ONLY REPRESENTATIVES OF WARTIME UN COUNTRIES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND CEREMONIES.

3. WITH RESPECT TO VE DAY EVENTS OUTSIDE OF FRANCE AND GERMANY, BOISSIEU CONFIRMED THAT FRANCE WILL NOT SEND "OFFICIAL" DELEGATIONS (I.E., DELEGATIONS WHICH CONTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT), BUT MAY BE REPRESENTED BY SPECIAL MISSIONS OR VETERANS GROUPS (REFTELS E AND F). IN ACCORDANCE WITH FRENCH STATEMENT IN NATO, THERE WILL BE NO FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS WHOSE

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AIMS GO BEYOND MARKING THE DEFEAT OF NAZISM, AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS ARE TO DECIDE ON THE SPOT, IN CONSULTATION WITH US AND UK COLLEAGUES, IF CELEBRATIONS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THESE GUIDELINES OR IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY WOULD HAVE AN ANTI-FRG CHARACTER.

4. CONCERNING VE DAY EVENTS IN GERMANY, FRENCH HAVE BEEN GUIDED BY DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND FRG SENSITIVITIES

AND HAVE SO FAR STUCK TO PRINCIPLE OF ATTENDING NO CEREMONIES ON GERMAN SOIL. IF, HOWEVER, FRG SHOULD REVISE ITS POSITION (REFTEL C) AND PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS IN THE FRG ORGANIZED BY EE COUNTRIES, THEN FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT WOULD HAVE FREE HAND. NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT THE THREE POWERS HAVE THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GERMANY, PARIS IN SUCH A CASE WOULD STILL SEE NEED TO DEFINE A JOINT POSITION WITH US AND UK.

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5. BECAUSE GDR WILL TRY TO USE OCCASION TO PRESENT ITSELF AS THE INNOCENT VICTIM OF FASCISM AND THE ONLY ONE OF THE GERMANIES TO HAVE BEEN PURIFIED, AND BECAUSE GDR COULD IN NO WAY BE CONSIDERED WARTIME ALLY, FRENCH

REPS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN MANIFESTATIONS IN EAST BERLIN ORGANIZED BY GDR AUTHORITIES. FRENCH REPS MAY, HOWEVER, ACCEPT--BOTH IN BONN AND IN BERLIN (WEST AND EAST)--INVITATIONS FROM EE COUNTRIES WHICH WERE WARTIME ALLIES (I.E., USSR, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA). (COMMENT: THE FRENCH INSTRUCTION HERE IS UNCLEAR. WHILE ITS APPLICABILITY TO EAST BERLIN IS NOT SPECIFICALLY CONDITIONED ON FRG ATTENDANCE AT SUCH EVENTS, IT WAS ISSUED ON ASSUMPTION THAT FRG HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, AS BERLIN EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN TOLD BY FRG REP BRAEUTIGAM; THE FRENCH POSITION IS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY CASE PREDICATED ON AGREEMENT WITH US AND UK.)

6. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH INSTRUCTION CONTINUES, FRENCH REPS COULD ALSO ATTEND TIERGARTEN CEREMONY PROVIDED (A) US AND UK AGREED, (B) FRENCH REPS DID NOT THINK SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED OBJECTION-ABLE BY BONN AND WEST BERLINERS, (C) FRENCH WERE ALSO INVITED TO TREPTOW CEREMONY, AND (D) THERE WERE NO GDR MILITARY PRESENCE AT TREPTOW. (COMMENT: BOISSIEU SAID FRENCH MISSION BERLIN HAD ALREADY SOUGHT CLARIFICATION FROM QUAI ON THIS ONE; PARIS AGREED THAT ONLY REPRESENTATIVES FROM MISSION IN WEST BERLIN SHOULD ATTEND TIERGARTEN/TREPTOW CEREMONIES. THE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD, HOWEVER, PERMIT FRENCH EMBASSY EAST BERLIN TO ATTEND PLANNED SOVIET RECEPTION.)

UK INSTRUCTIONS

7. UK REP (CULLIMORE) SAID LONDON HAS ALSO ISSUED GUIDELINES ON VE 30TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS. BRITISH HAVE NO OBJECTION PER SE TO ATTENDANCE BY UK REPS AT EVENTS BUT SEE NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION WITH US AND FRANCE. LONDON DOES NOT WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS WHICH WOULD EXAGGERATE SOVIET WAR EFFORT TO DETRIMENT OF THE ALLIED EFFORT, AND DOES NOT WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANTI-GERMAN ASPECTS WHICH MAY OCCUR. BECAUSE OF LATTER POINT, UK TOOK DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS ON GERMAN SOIL, BUT IF FRG OR WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES SHOULD SEND REPS TO (OR ORGANIZE) SUCH EVENTS THEN LONDON WOULD SEE NO REASON TO BE STRICTER THAN GERMANS.

8. ACCORDING TO UK INSTRUCTIONS, FOR POSSIBLE CEREMONIES IN BONN THE KEY IS THE FRG ATTITUDE. IF FRG WERE TO ACCEPT A SOVIET INVITATION (AND WE UNDERSTAND THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE WILL BE HOLDING LARGE RECEPTION), UK WOULD DO SAME BUT AFTER APPROPRIATE

TRIPARTITE CONSULTATION.

9. WITH REGARD TO EVENTS IN EAST BERLIN, BRITISH SEE
NO DIFFICULTY WITH THEIR BERLIN EMBASSY'S ATTENDING
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BOTH TREPTOW CEREMONY AND EVENT AT OPERA, AS EMBASSY
DID LAST YEAR. BRITISH WOULD PREFER NOT TO DO MORE,
BUT IF FRG REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN SHOULD GO
BEYOND THIS, BRITISH EMBASSY WOULD HAVE DISCRETION,
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COORDINATION WITH US AND FRANCE,
TO ATTEND OTHER EVENTS.

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10. IN WEST BERLIN, THE UK WOULD PREFER NOT TO ATTEND THE SOVIET TIERGARTEN CEREMONY (TREPTOW IS "QUITE SUFFICIENT") BUT COULD DO SO IF US AND FRENCH DESIRE AND IF ALLIED JUDGMENT IS THAT SUCH ATTENDANCE WOULD NOT UPSET WEST BERLINERS UNDULY. SHOULD GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ ORGANIZE A SERIES OF WREATH LAYINGS AND INVITE ALLIED OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE (BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS BERLIN HAVE REPORTED THAT HE IS CONSIDERING THIS), IT WOULD IN UK VIEW BE SUFFICIENT FOR BRITISH COMMANDANT TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY AT THE BRITISH MILITARY CEMETERY. THE BRITISH SEE NO PROBLEM IN HIS DOING THAT WHILE REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOVIET WREATH-LAYING AT TIERGARTEN.

11. COMMENT: BOTH FRENCH AND BRITISH REPS ADMITTED
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LACK OF CLARITY IN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. KEY POINTS IN BOTH WERE NEED FOR CONTINUED TRIPARTITE COORDINATION AND EFFORT TO INJECT FLEXIBILITY IN FACE OF INDICATIONS THAT WEST GERMANS, AND POSSIBLE WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES, REALIZE THEY RISK ALLOWING EAST GERMANS TO SUCCEED IN PORTRAYING THEMSELVES AS THE ONLY GERMANS GRATEFUL FOR DEFEAT OF FASCISM. FRG CABINET IS SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER TODAY (APRIL 23) HOW TO RESPOND TO SOVIET INVITATION FOR BONN RECEPTION AND NATURE OF FRG OBSERVANCE (PRESIDENT SCHEEL IS CONSIDERING MAY 8 RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AT WHICH SPEECH WOULD BE MADE AND TO WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS WAR VICTIMS ASSOCIATION WOULD BE INVITED). AS FOR FRG PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS IN EAST BERLIN, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE SO FAR TO OBTAIN ONLY PARTIAL CONFIRMATION OF PLANS REPORTED IN BERLIN 5590 (RECEIVED AFTER ABOVE WAS DRAFTED). SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIAL TELLS US THAT GAUS DOES HAVE DISCRETION ON PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS SUCH AS WREATH LAYINGS, BUT THAT HIS GUIDELINES, LIKE THOSE FOR FRG REPS IN USSR AND OTHER EE CAPITALS, WOULD HAVE HIM AVOID MEETINGS AND PARADES. WE ARE PROMISED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FRG PLANS AT BONN GROUP MEETING THIS AFTERNOON.
HILLENBRAND

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